

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

December 21, 2000

To: Interested Parties

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE SITING AND ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMITTEE S INFORMATIONAL PROCEEDING ON ISSUES THAT ARE CRITICAL
TO THE LICENSING OF FUTURE POWER PLANTS**

In the face of increasing demand for electricity in California, on Wednesday, December 20, 2000, the Energy Commission adopted the enclosed Order Instituting an Informational Proceeding on issues that are critical to the licensing of future power plants. The Siting and Environmental Committee (Committee) is initiating the proceeding with a workshop on January 25, 2001, to take comments on the effects of natural gas supply constraints on future licensing of power plants. The Committee has also tentatively identified emission offset availability; water supply; land use constraints; transmission line constraints; local agency and public opposition, and timing of federal permits as discussion topics for subsequent workshops in this proceeding.

The Committee would appreciate receiving your suggestions regarding any other issues that are critical to the licensing of power plants in the State. The Committee will use the information gathered during this proceeding to prepare a report which describes the topics examined, their significance in the licensing process, their priority of importance, and actions needed to avoid any problems identified. Please provide any written comments identifying additional discussion topics by January 6, 2001, to the Commission s Docket Unit at the address provided in the enclosed order.

Prior to each workshop, the Committee will distribute background papers and scoping questions on scheduled topics. During the workshop a panel of speakers representing agencies, developers and public interest groups will address the scoping questions, followed by a discussion period with audience participation. If you have any questions regarding the proceeding, please contact Chris Tooker, at (916) 653-1634, or via e-mail at ctooker@energy.state.ca.us.

ROBERT A. LAURIE
Commissioner and Presiding Member

ROBERT PERNELL
Commissioner and Associate Member

Enclosure

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:)	Docket 00-SIT-2
)	
Examining Critical Issues in the)	ORDER INSTITUTING
Licensing of Thermal Powerplants and)	INFORMATIONAL PROCEEDING
Related Facilities)	
<hr/>)	Order No. 00-1220-18

I. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25210 and Title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1222(b), the Commission hereby adopts an order instituting an informational proceeding as proposed by the Energy Facility Siting Committee. The Committee, with Commissioner Laurie as Presiding Member and Commissioner Pernell as Associate Member, proposes to conduct information-gathering workshops over the next several months and produce a report on critical issues affecting the Commission's ability to license powerplants and related facilities in light of the State's increasing demands for electricity. Based on recent cases, such critical issues include, but are not limited to, the availability of emission offsets, water supply, transmission line constraints, natural gas supply constraints, local agency and public opposition, land use constraints, and problems with the timing of federal permits. Such issues arise in application proceedings for thermal powerplants and related facilities under the Commission's permitting authority pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25500 et seq.

In the face of increasing demand for electricity and the state's recent and current difficulties in meeting that demand, the Commission has a particular interest in identifying, examining, and, where possible, alleviating undue constraints on its ability to license proposed powerplants expeditiously. This informational proceeding shall examine

such constraints and identify actions needed to avoid or resolve them. The results of this proceeding shall be consistent with the Commission's responsibilities to balance the requirements of economic growth with environmental protection and the protection of public health and safety.

II. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO SITING COMMITTEE

The Commission, in adopting this order, authorizes the Energy Facility Siting Committee to preside over the proceeding pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25211. The Committee shall issue notices for all hearings and workshops and may adopt additional procedures it deems necessary for the reasonable conduct of the proceeding. The Commission leaves to the Committee which particular licensing issues to pursue and how best to frame them for the workshops and the resulting Committee report. Depending on the information and input received from stakeholders, agencies, interested members of the public, outside experts, and Commission staff, the Committee report may provide recommendations for consideration by the Commission and possibly by the Legislature, other agencies, and prospective applicants.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND FIRST WORKSHOP

The Commission encourages public participation in this proceeding. Interested persons should attend the first public workshop, which will be held on January 25, 2001. The Siting Committee will issue a notice stating the scheduled time and place of the workshop. The Committee is authorized to hold additional workshops and hearings to gather the information needed to prepare its report. Any person present at any hearing or workshop shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to make oral comments on the subject matter of this proceeding. Petitions to intervene are not necessary. Any person may file written comments on the subject of the proceeding. Written comments must be received at the following address:

Docket Number 00-SIT-2
Docket Unit
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Executive Director shall ensure that this Order and notices of hearings and workshops are distributed to all interested persons and that drafts of any recommendations are made available sufficiently in advance of adoption by the Commission to allow timely participation. Roberta Mendonca, the Public Adviser, is available to facilitate the participation of any person in this proceeding. She may be reached by calling (916) 654-4489 or toll-free in California at (800) 822-6228. Technical questions about the proceeding should be addressed to Chris Tooker at (916) 653-1634 or via e-mail at ctooker@energy.state.ca.us.

Date: _____

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

WILLIAM J. KEESE
Chairman

MICHAL C. MOORE
Commissioner

ROBERT A. LAURIE
Commissioner

ROBERT PERNELL
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